

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 21-23, 25-29 and 29 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. -20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device comprising a catalyst assembly comprising a substrate, nanofilaments which have a nanometer-size diameter and are formed on the substrate, and particles which have a nanometer-size diameter of not more than approximately 100 nanometers, at least one of the nanofilaments and the particles having a catalytic function.

22. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein [[the]] adjacent nanofilaments are formed at intervals have an interval of from 2 to 200 nanometers.

23. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein [[the]] adjacent nanofilaments are formed at intervals have an interval of from 2 to 100 nanometers.

24. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a diameter of from 0.5 to 50 nanometers.

25. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments ~~grow-up~~ extend from a surface of the substrate.

26. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments ~~protrude~~ extend generally perpendicular from a surface of the substrate.

27. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles are supported on the nanofilament.

28. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate is in the shape of a plate, honeycomb, particle, or stick.

29. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of an oxide, a nitride, [[or]] a carbide of a metal or silicon, and a solid solution thereof.

30. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a catalytic function.

31. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal oxide and a metal sulfide.

32. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum.

33. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise a material having a co-catalytic function.

34. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the material has a function for adsorbing and desorbing oxygen.

35. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise an oxide of cerium, zirconium or yttrium, or a solid solution thereof.

36. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO₂, ZrO₂ or Y₂O₃.

37. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO₂.

38. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum and the nanofilaments comprise CeO₂ or a solid solution of CeO₂ and ZrO₂.

39. (previously presented) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the catalytic function comprises purifying an automobile exhaust gas.